

Message Text

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17

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8205

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1587

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EI

SUBJECT: DAIL TO BE RECALLED FOR EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

1. FOLLOWING A FIVE HOUR CABINET MEETING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED EVENING AUGUST 10 THAT THE DAIL (IRISH PARLIAMENT) WOULD BE RECALLED AUGUST 31 TO PASS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION RELATING TO SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. PREVIOUSLY, AT A CABINET MEETING FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN AND AN EXPLOSION AT THE SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT WHICH RESULTED IN THE ESCAPE OF IRA PRISONERS, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION WAS NECESSARY.

2. THE EXACT PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION HAVE NOT BEEN REVEALED, BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WILL INCLUDE MORE SEVERE PENALTIES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS (IRA) AS WELL AS STIFFER PENALTIES FOR SUCH OFFENCES AS CARRYING WEAPONS. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT WHILE THE GENERAL LINES OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION HAD BEEN AGREED IN THE CABINET MEETING, DETAILS STILL HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THE BILLS ARE PRESENTED TO THE DAIL. THE BILLS WILL BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF THE DAIL PRIOR TO ITS MEETING AUGUST 31.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, REPORTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT
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OPPOSITION FIANNA FAIL PARTY WILL BE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ANY

LEGISLATION PROPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR IRA MEMBERSHIP. FIANNA
FAIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THE QUESTION
OF CREATING NEW CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

4. ONE OF THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST HAS BEEN
LACK OF PRISON ACCOMMODATION. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT
WORK HAS BEEN SPEEDED UP AT A NEW PRISON IN THE CURRAGH WHICH WOULD
EASE THE PRESSURE ON PORTLAOISE PRISON. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT
NOW THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN EASED THERE MAY BE AN INCREASE IN
THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS.
CURLEY

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